

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original): A method of imaging an object, comprising:  
illuminating said object to emit at least one pulse of electrons;  
directing said pulse of electrons along an optical path through a lens, towards a target to form an image of said object at said target;  
spatially separating electrons within said pulse in dependence on their kinetic energies, before said electrons reach said lens;  
providing a time varying electric field along said optical path remote from said object, said field varying in time so that the amount of energy provided to individual ones of said electrons in said pulse depends on their spatial separation within said pulse, thereby reducing energy dispersion in said pulse at said lens and reducing the chromatic aberration in said image.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said providing comprises varying an electric potential at said lens.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein said varying an electric potential comprises varying said electric potential to increase in time, in synchronism with said pulse.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said lens comprises a projector lens.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said lens comprises a magnetic lens.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said target comprises an electron detector.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising providing an objective lens proximate said object to magnify said image.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said spatially separating comprises passing said pulse of electrons through a drift chamber positioned between said object and said target.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein the electric field in said drift chamber is substantially zero along said optical axis.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein said drift chamber has a length between 20 and 100 cm along said optical axis.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said pulse of electrons proximate said object has a length less than 10 ns.

Claim 12 (original): An apparatus for imaging an object, comprising:

a lens for focusing pulsed electrons emitted from said object and directed along an optical axis to form an image of said object at a target, and

a correcting element positioned remote from said object, said correcting element electrically biased to a voltage for correcting the kinetic energies of electrons passing through said lens, said voltage variable in synchronization with said pulsed electrons for correcting the kinetic energies of said pulsed electrons in dependence on arrival times at said correcting element.

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Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a drift chamber positioned upstream of said lens and said correcting element for allowing said pulsed electrons to drift so that said pulsed electrons travelling at different speeds become spatially separated in a direction along said optical axis within said drift chamber.

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Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a source for energizing said object to emit said pulsed electrons.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a source for energizing said object to emit said pulsed electrons.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said lens comprises a projector lens.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said lens comprises a magnetic lens.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising an electron detector at said target.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising an electron spectrometer at said target.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising an objective lens proximate said object.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising wherein said drift chamber is positioned between said objective lens and one of said one or more projector lens[[es]].

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the electric field in said drift chamber is substantially zero in said direction of said optical axis.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the length of said drift chamber in said direction of said optical axis is between 20 and 100 cm.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said correcting element is positioned between said drift chamber and said detector.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said correcting element is positioned at said focusing-elementlens.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said correcting element is positioned between said drift chamber and said focusing-elementlens.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said correcting element is integrated with said focusing-elementlens.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said objective lens has an opening between 0.05 to 0.2 mm for allowing said pulsed electrons to pass through.

Claim 29 (original): A method of imaging an object, comprising:

illuminating said object to emit at least one pulse of electrons;  
directing said pulse of electrons along an optical path through a lens, towards a target to form an image of said object at said target;  
spatially separating electrons within said pulse in dependence on their kinetic energies, before said electrons reach said lens;  
varying the focal strength of said lens in time to compensate for variations in kinetic energies of individual ones of said electrons in said pulse, thereby reducing the chromatic aberration in said image.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein said varying comprises varying an electric potential at said lens.

Claim 31 (original): An electric/magnetic lens for use in an electron emission microscope, comprising:

an electrode, having a controllable potential for varying energy imparted to electrons arriving at said electrode, and thereby the focal strength of said lens.

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